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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,021	10/21/2005	Nicholas Michael Ian Noble	NL030483	7851

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EXAMINER

BOR, HELENE CATHERINE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3768

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/554,021	Applicant(s) NOBLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Helene Bor	Art Unit 3768	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner recognizes the amendments filed 07/18/2207 to the pending application. The amendments were to claims 1-7 10-11, and new claims 13-14. Thus under examination are claims 1-14.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's corrections and arguments regarding the claim objections, the drawing objections and specification objections have overcome the objections. The examiner withdraws any objection to the drawings, claims or specification.
2. Applicant's arguments filed 07/18/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to the applicant's arguments, the examiner disagrees. The applicant argues that Jolly'949 does not teach the compensating act for the myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours delineated at the ED during subsequent phases of the cardiac cycle. However, Jolly'949 does in fact teach the compensating act as shown in Figure 3, which shows the compensating act for the myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours. First drawn is an approximate contour in the image which is further compensated with a second pass (Page 4, Para 0046). As shown in the drawing, Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314, the compensation removes the myocardium from the endocardial contours. Thus, the 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 5 & 7-12 and the 103(a) rejection of claims 2-4 & 6 are maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1, 5 & 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jolly'494 (US Patent Application No. 2003/0069494 A1).

Claim 1: Jolly'494 teaches a method of determining total left ventricular interior volume (Page 2, Para 0033) during a cardiac cycle from a cardiac cine series (Page 5, Para 0058). In addition, Jolly'494 teaches delineating endocardial and epicardial contours of a left ventricle in all slices of said cine series at end-diastole (ED) (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040) and applying the endocardial contours delineated at ED to all phases of the cardiac cycle (Page 3, Para 0040). Jolly'494 teaches calculating the total LV interior volume based on intensity values inside the endocardial contours delineated at ED (Page 1, Para 0007, Page 2, Para 0033 & Page 4, Para 0042). Jolly'494 teaches compensating for myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours delineated at the ED during subsequent phases of the cardiac cycle (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040, Page 3, Para 0040 & Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314).

Claim 5/1: Jolly'494 teaches a method wherein the cine series is a short-axis study of the heart (Figure 2, Element a & c) consisting of multiple slices covering at least the left ventricle and multiple phases within the cardiac cycle (Page 5, Para 0058).

Claim 7/1: Jolly'494 teaches a method wherein the cine series is captured previously to said method on a device for imaging inside parts of a mammal body (Page 1, Para 0004 & Page 5, Para 0058).

Claim 8/7/1: Jolly'494 teaches a method with a device for magnetic resonance imaging inside parts of a mammal body (Page 1, Para 0004).

Claim 9/8/7/1: Jolly'494 teaches a method wherein an MRI study comprises true Fast Imaging with Steady-State Precession (true FISP) also known in the art as Steady State Free Precession (SSFP) images (Page 5, Para 0058).

Claim 10/1: Jolly'494 teaches a method for compensating motion of the heart (Page 1, Para 0005 & Page 1 Para 0007 - 0011).

Claim 11: Jolly'494 teaches a using a suitable commercial cardiac analysis package and a computer platform with an operating system and micro instruction code. Jolly'494 teaches implementing the invention in various hardware, software or combinations thereof (Page 3, Para 0035). Jolly'494 teaches a computer program for calculating total left ventricular (LV) volume (Page 2, Para 0033) during a cardiac cycle from a cine series (Page 5, Para 0058). Jolly'494 teaches a computer program for delineating endocardial and epicardial contours of a left ventricle in all slices of said cine series at end-diastole (ED) (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040). Jolly'494 teaches computer program for applying the endocardial contours delineated at ED to all phases of the cardiac cycle (Page 3, Para 0040), and the total LV volume based on intensity values inside the endocardial contours delineated at ED (Page 1, Para 0007, Page 2, Para 0033 & Page 4, Para 0042). Jolly'494 teaches compensating for myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours delineated at the ED during subsequent phases of the cardiac cycle (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040, Page 3, Para 0040 & Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314).

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Claim 12/11: Jolly'494 teaches a computer program for automatically delineates the endocardial and epicardial contours (Page 3, Para 0040 & 0041).

Claim 13/1: Jolly'494 teaches wherein the compensating act includes deleting contribution of the myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours (Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314).

Claim 14/11: Jolly'494 teaches wherein the contribution of the myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours is removed (Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claim 2-4 & 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolly'494 (US Patent Application No. 2003/0069494 A1) and further in view of Avinash'682 et al. (US Patent No. 6,980,682 B1).

Claim 2/1: Jolly'494 teaches using the intensity for performing calculations on the myocardium and blood voxels at the ED based on the delineated endocardial and epicardial contours (Page 1, Para 0007, Page 2, Para 0033 & Page 4, Para 0042). Jolly'494 fails to teach using the mean of the intensity for the calculations. However, Avinash'682 teaches using the mean of the intensity for the calculations (Col. 8, Line 8-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Jolly'494 and Avinash'682 in order to produce greater accuracy and requires minimal user interaction (Col. 3, Line 35-40).

Claim 3/2/1: Jolly'494 teaches using intensities for the myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours delineated at ED (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040) during subsequent phases of the cardiac cycle (Page 3, Para 0040) and the compensating act (Figure 3, Element 302, 310 & 314). Jolly'494 fails to teach using mean intensities. However, Avinash'682 using the mean intensities for compensating for myocardium enclosed in the endocardial contours (Col. 7, Line 1-18 & Col. 8, Line 8-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Jolly'494 and Avinash'682 in order to provide greater accuracy and requires minimal user interaction (Col. 3, Line 35-40).

Claim 4/3/2/1: Formulas and equations in the abstract are not patentable subject matter (MPEP 2106 Patent Subject Matter Eligibility). The following equation as claimed, is not taught by the cited references verbatim. However, Jolly'494 teaches calculating the LV interior volume is calculated (Page 2, Para 0033). Jolly'494 also teaches evaluating the total number of slices (Page 4, Para 0049) and the calculating

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interior volume of the LV at end-diastole (Page 3, Para 0034 & 0040). Jolly'494 teaches the detected intensity of the slice within the endocardial delimitation (Page 1, Para 0011) at ED (Page 3, Para 0040).

Claim 6/1: Jolly'494 teaches comprising determining the LV volume from cine sequences Jolly '494 fails to teach acquiring the images while the heart is under stress. However, Avinash'682 teaches evaluating the heart while under stress (Col. 1, Line 51-62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Jolly'494 and Avinash'682 in order to observe abnormalities induced by stress (Col. 1, Line 56).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

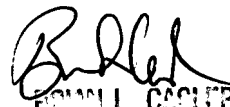
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene Bor whose telephone number is 571-272-2947. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eleni Mantis-Mercader can be reached on 571-272-4740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

hcb


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